

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

5        In order to evaluate the quality of a signal recorded on an optical  
recording medium, a target signal is obtained based on a predetermined data  
string and a predetermined partial response characteristic, and for each clock  
cycle, an equalization error is calculated that is a difference between the target  
signal and a signal reproduced each clock cycle. Further, the product of the  
equalization errors calculated at different times is obtained, and based on the  
10        obtained product, the quality of a signal is evaluated.